

# 'Countess,' 7 Others Indicted On Spy Charges, Face Death

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Detroit, Sept. 17.—A Federal grand jury today named four women and four men on charges of conspiring under the wartime espionage act to supply the German government with information regarding defense and war moves of the United States.

Conviction of the offense charged could result in the death penalty or up to 30 years' imprisonment.

A few hours before the grand jury reported its indictment to Federal Judge Edward J. Moinet, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation here arrested Carl John, Wilhelm Leonhardt and Walter Joseph Abt, two of those indicted. Both pleaded guilty late today and were held under \$25,000 bond each.

Four of the others already had been detained under \$50,000 bonds on presidential warrants, and two have been in custody as Dangerous enemy aliens. Their arraignment is planned for next week.

The eight indicted, and activity attributed to them by Federal authorities, are:

## Self-styled "Countess"

Miss Grace Buchanan-Dineen, self-styled "countess" and central figure in the group; recruited by the Nazis in Hungary for spy work, she entered the United States late in 1941, and after the FBI began its investigation of her activities she operated under their surveillance, clearing information through the FBI, Army and Navy intelligence services before forwarding it to her Nazi superiors.

Mrs. Theresa Behrens, native of Yugoslavia, former German-American secretary of the international center, YMCA here, promoter of musicales to raise funds for German prisoners of war.

Leonhardt, native of Duesseldorf and former German army officer; an organizer of the group in this country known as the Hitler Elements and recently employed here as a carpenter.

Mrs. Emma Elsie Leonhardt, his wife, called "Mamma" by other members of the group who used her home as a meeting place.

Countess Marianna von Moltke, wife of a suspended Wayne University (Detroit) German instructor; she introduced Miss Buchanan-

Dineen to persons who might be able to supply information desired by the group.

## Was War Plant Worker

Abt, native of Stuttgart, Germany, research engineer and tool designer recently working on anti-aircraft guns in a Detroit war plant, and occasional roomer at the Leonhardt home; former associate of Joseph Goebbels, German minister of propaganda.

Dr. Fred William Thomas, Detroit obstetrician, native of Fresno,

Ohio; former associate of Fritz Kuhn, German-American Bund leader; he is charged with supplying chemicals for invisible ink.

Bertrand Stuart Hoffman, former merchant seaman arrested in New York August 24.

In addition to these eight, the indictment named 16 other persons as coconspirators but not defendants. The indictment charged they acted as agents directing the activity of the defendants, or maintained addresses in various European cities for the purpose of receiving and transmitting information of the German government.

## Importer Named

Among the 16 named as coconspirators is Theodore Donay, Detroit importer now serving a six-year Federal sentence for misprision of treason in connection with the aid given to Oberleutnant Hans Peter Krug, escaped Nazi flier, by Max Stephan, Detroit restaurant operator. Stephan, originally sentenced to death, is serving a life term for treason.

Others named as coconspirators include Gvula Rozinek, described as a spy recruiter for the Gestapo, who was deported to Hungary in 1941 after he was discharged from a chemical company job because he was observed in attempts to obtain maps locating refineries of the Standard Oil Co. of California, and his wife, Sari DeNajek of Budapest, described as a former Vassar College exchange student who made a United States tour in 1938 lecturing on Hungarian folk dances.